

JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILLINOIS.
OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.
Tuesday, February 17, 1863.

The State of the Country.

No lover of his country can reflect upon the present deplorable condition of our unfortunate country, without feelings of the deepest sadness.

We are now rapidly approaching the conclusion of a year, for the last three months we have been drifting to destruction with accelerated speed. The President and his cabinet have surrendered themselves completely to the Sumners, the Lowrys, the Chandlers, the Wades, the Greys, and the other leaders of Abolitionism, and the Government is no longer conducted upon constitutional principles.

It is true the Lincoln journals cry out in favor of the "Union" and the "constitution," but they use these phrases for the purpose of hoodwinking the people, while their Jacobinian party leads on to the destruction of the Government, and the ruin of the country.

I need not have maintained ever since the commencement of the war, that the policy of the Abolitionists was to prosecute it in such a manner as to bring about a final separation. That conclusion is now being verified.

The course of the Abolition leaders at Washington, from the passage of the emancipation bill for the District of Columbia to the issue of the President's decree of general emancipation, has meant nothing but dissolution. The fate of the Union, as far as the Abolition party could do so, was sealed by the issue of the emancipation proclamation. As far as this Administration was concerned, it destroyed all grounds of hope for a reconstruction of the Union.

And to prove to our readers that we are correct in our surmises and statements, we will refer to the programme of Mr. Conway, a leading supporter of the Administration, as laid down in Congress, the other day. It is simply to recognize the Southern Confederacy and an agreement for a final separation.

This is what the radicals have been laboring for all the while. Ever since the organization of their sectional party, they have been working to place affairs in such a condition that the Union must be dissolved. They were willing that rivers of blood should flow—and thousands of lives be sacrificed and homes desolated, in order that the people of the two sections would consent to their schemes. The seeds of the "irrepressible conflict" have been sown, and the bloody fruit is now being gathered.

The war that was commenced and prosecuted for the avowed purpose of restoring the Union and establishing the authority of the laws until twelve hundred thousand patriots volunteered to aid the Government, is now waged for the sole purpose of maintaining negro emancipation. It is thus that we have been brought to the very brink of ruin.

We should like to enquire of Mr. Conway what is to become of the President's four millions of "free American citizens of African descent" if his proposition to recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy is adopted? Will they be again abandoned to the inevitable fate of slavery?

Here we must be permitted to remark that though the Democracy are stigmatized as "copper-heads," "butterflies," "traitors," and such like mild terms; and though they desire to see an end put to this horrible war, and peace again restored to the country, they will never consent to a peace or the terms proposed by some of the Abolition leaders. Nothing short of a restoration of the Union will be accepted by the Democracy. They desire no peace short of this, but they insist that the war be conducted for the accomplishment of that end, and not, as it is at present, for the support of the insane policy of the radicals.

These are some of the reasons why the Democracy oppose the Administration. It is because they would sustain the Government and restore the Union that they oppose the policy of the Administration and the schemes of the Abolitionists. To save the Union, the Democracy are willing to make any sacrifice and bear any burden of taxation, but under the present gloomy state of affairs, brought about by the subversion of the constitution by those whose duty it is to protect, defend and enforce it, they decidedly protest against being oppressed and slaughtered.

The Democracy are willing to pour out their best blood on our battle fields in order to restore the Union upon the eternal principles of justice, and a regard for the constitutional rights of the South as well as the North, but to fight to establish negro equality, or to back up the Administration in its Abolition scheme to ripen and prepare the people for a separation, is no part of their programme. They do not mean to be held in any way accountable for the destruction of this Government.

RETAILING COMMERCIAL.—In obedience to J. F. Davis' proclamation, Unionists were taken on foot refused parole and placed in close confinement. A large number are now imprisoned in Richmond.

Gen. Halleck has issued orders that no more rebel officers shall be paroled until further orders.

This is but the commencement of the barbarities that are to be enacted if the President does not withdraw his negro proclamation. Soon the shooting of officers commanding our negro regiments will begin, and then must of necessity follow retaliation of the same sort upon rebel officers who are so unfortunate as to fall into our hands. If they murder any of our officers as J. F. Davis directs, they very well know that their own men will fall into our hands must yield life for life.

The principle of retaliation is barbarous and since neither party can accomplish any results by its practice, it is to be hoped that the order on both sides relating to it will be revoked, and thus the further prosecution of the war will be governed by the ordinary principles of civilized warfare.

The President has nominated Gen. Phelps, of New York, to succeed Gen. Phelps, of New York, resigned, and during the commission back so that he will rank as volunteer Major-General in the service, except General Dix, Butler, and Banks.

It is true that Gen. Butler has decided to return to New Orleans, but he is not the Secretary of War, and his decision is of no consequence.

SECRET "UNION LEAGUE."—We understand that arrangements are being made in this city for the organization of a secret political society, to have the backing of the Abolition party.

These secret leagues are being formed all over the Northern States. In Ohio and Indiana they are said to be quite numerous and it is said that arms are being placed in their hands for the Abolition Government of the latter State. In this State the work of organizing has but just commenced, but we have no doubt that we shall soon have one of these "free negro" leagues in every town and village where enough Abolitionist can be found to constitute one.

The Lincoln League-holders, the Government contractors, and the Abolition "swindlers" generally are the prime movers in getting up these organizations. They are afraid that the means of robbing the people and pecuniating upon the treasury may be taken from them. Their mid-night anarchy are simply schemes to further cheat and mislead the people.

But we believe the supporters of Abraham Lincoln's negro freedom policy will find it difficult to blind the eyes of people in regard to their nefarious schemes. The day of secret political organizations are about numbered, at least so far as regards their power and influence for harm. The people were sufficiently "fished" with secret political parties in the rise and fall of Know Nothingism to last them for half a century.

No party can exist in this country, whose liberty and intelligence are the prominent characteristics, that tries to sustain itself by resorting to secret lodges. The people will not tolerate a set of mid-night conspirators, who must resort to dodging into times and alleys after midnight, and climb up dark stairways with the aid of "dark lanterns" to attain to their designs. If there is one thing more than another that the citizens of a free country should guard against and denounce, it is a secret political party; no matter what name it may assume, whether "Know Nothing," "Loyal League," or "Knights of the Golden Circle," or any other, the danger is the same.

We would inquire of the organizers of these new secret political organizations, if their objects are pure and motives good, why not expose them to the public? Why not "lay" themselves out in loyalty to the constitution and the Government, why do they aim to conceal their movements and avoid the discussion of their sentiments in open day? If it is for the purpose of opposing the Government, why not openly trumpet up the constitutional rights of the people and sustaining Abraham Lincoln and his Abolition advisers in their usurpations and violations of constitutional law, what is the object of the new secret "Loyal Leagues"? These are pertinent questions, and we hope will be satisfactorily answered by some of the members of the secret leagues.

The result of the late election should awaken the supporters of Abraham Lincoln's policy to a true sense of their position. They may try to keep in power by secret political organizations, but all efforts will be vain. Their doom is sealed; and their day of grace is fast drawing to a close. The decree will go forth from the ballot boxes at all future elections, that will consign them and their Abraham Lincoln League to infamy and oblivion.

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These secret leagues are being formed all over the Northern States. In Ohio and Indiana they are said to be quite numerous and it is said that arms are being placed in their hands for the Abolition Government of the latter State. In this State the work of organizing has but just commenced, but we have no doubt that we shall soon have one of these "free negro" leagues in every town and village where enough Abolitionist can be found to constitute one.

The Lincoln League-holders, the Government contractors, and the Abolition "swindlers" generally are the prime movers in getting up these organizations. They are afraid that the means of robbing the people and pecuniating upon the treasury may be taken from them. Their mid-night anarchy are simply schemes to further cheat and mislead the people.

But we believe the supporters of Abraham Lincoln's negro freedom policy will find it difficult to blind the eyes of people in regard to their nefarious schemes. The day of secret political organizations are about numbered, at least so far as regards their power and influence for harm. The people were sufficiently "fished" with secret political parties in the rise and fall of Know Nothingism to last them for half a century.

No party can exist in this country, whose liberty and intelligence are the prominent characteristics, that tries to sustain itself by resorting to secret lodges. The people will not tolerate a set of mid-night conspirators, who must resort to dodging into times and alleys after midnight, and climb up dark stairways with the aid of "dark lanterns" to attain to their designs. If there is one thing more than another that the citizens of a free country should guard against and denounce, it is a secret political party; no matter what name it may assume, whether "Know Nothing," "Loyal League," or "Knights of the Golden Circle," or any other, the danger is the same.

We would inquire of the organizers of these new secret political organizations, if their objects are pure and motives good, why not expose them to the public? Why not "lay" themselves out in loyalty to the constitution and the Government, why do they aim to conceal their movements and avoid the discussion of their sentiments in open day? If it is for the purpose of opposing the Government, why not openly trumpet up the constitutional rights of the people and sustaining Abraham Lincoln and his Abolition advisers in their usurpations and violations of constitutional law, what is the object of the new secret "Loyal Leagues"? These are pertinent questions, and we hope will be satisfactorily answered by some of the members of the secret leagues.

The result of the late election should awaken the supporters of Abraham Lincoln's policy to a true sense of their position. They may try to keep in power by secret political organizations, but all efforts will be vain. Their doom is sealed; and their day of grace is fast drawing to a close. The decree will go forth from the ballot boxes at all future elections, that will consign them and their Abraham Lincoln League to infamy and oblivion.

THE RAC CURRENT.—The total amount of legal tender notes already authorized by Congress and now in circulation, is four hundred millions of dollars, besides six millions in postal currency, with no limit to its future issue. The present circulation of bank note paper in the loyal States is stated to be \$100,000,000, making a total paper currency circulating at the present time of \$500,000,000, against \$150,000,000, the largest amount ever floated previous to 1861.

In view of these facts, nobody need wonder at the depreciation which has already fallen upon our paper currency, and nobody can stop its further depreciation just in proportion to the additional issues which may be authorized by Congress, until it becomes as valueless as the paper upon which it is printed.

A FALSE IMPRESSION.—We copy, in today's paper, an article from the Wilmington Independent, which conveys a grossly untrue view of the state of feeling amongst our German citizens here relative to the Zapt. Now, while it is true that many of our citizens, native born as well as German, have taken an interest in the case, that Zapt should have a fair trial, according to law, at the same time there has been no feeling of the character alluded to by our Wilmington contemporary. The German citizens of Joliet are in favor of the constitution and laws. All they ask is, that they be duly enforced, and properly executed.

A MILD WINTER.—The unusually mild winter is a matter of comment, not only in this country but in Europe. Eastern papers speak of this winter as no winter at all; while in the West we have had record cold weather enough to drive navigation to the verge of destruction. The object of the meteorologists is to make the weather for January as pleasant as spring time.

THE KENTUCKY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—On the 15th inst., a resolution was reported from the committee on Federal Relations, appointing commissioners from that State to meet others from the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Missouri, on the 25th of next month, at Louisville, "passed," after a lively discussion. The object of the meeting is to confer concerning the state of the country.</